

Trade Act

Assistance Program

WHAT IS TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE?

The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 consolidated the Trade Act of 1974 and the Transitional Adjustment Assistance program, or TAA, under the 1994 North American Free Trade Act, or NAFTA.

TAA provides a variety of services and benefits to workers who lose their jobs because of increased imports or when their employer shifts production to certain countries outside the U.S. The program is administered by the Idaho Department of Labor through 25 local offices statewide.

ELIGIBILITY

- Workers who lose their jobs or whose work has become part-time because of increased imports or their employer shifts production from a site within the United States to certain countries may be eligible.
- Workers in companies indirectly affected by trade may also be eligible for TAA. If a worker loses a job at a company that produces and supplies component parts directly to a certified primary firm, that worker may be eligible.
- Indirectly affected workers may also be eligible if they work for a firm that provides additional value to a product or does final assembly or finishing work for a certified primary firm.
- Family farmers and farm workers who are adversely affected by NAFTA, but who do not qualify for unemployment compensation, are eligible for TAA if they worked at least eight weeks during the previous year.

Check with an Idaho Department of Labor staff at one of the 25 offices for additional eligibility information.

SERVICES & BENEFITS

- ***Job Search Assistance***
Job Search allowances may be available to cover expenses incurred when seeking employment outside normal commuting areas.
- ***Weekly monetary benefits when state unemployment benefits are exhausted***
TAA certified workers may be eligible for weekly Trade Readjustment Allowances after their regular state unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted. If the worker is enrolled in training, weekly TRA benefits are paid during training periods if the worker continues to attend sessions and make satisfactory progress.
- ***Training and Reemployment Services***
Idaho Labor staff matches applicants' skills and experience with the requirements and qualifications of thousands of job opportunities in Idaho and elsewhere. Staff also counsel and test clients for aptitudes and interests and, if no suitable jobs are available, connect workers with available training services at no cost. If the training facility is located outside the normal commuting area, some transportation costs are paid through TAA.
- ***Relocation Assistance***
Relocation allowances may be available to workers who find a job outside their normal commuting area and must move as a condition of accepting that employment. TAA will pay 90 percent of the allowable costs of moving family and household furnishings to a new location. In addition, relocated workers are eligible

to receive a lump sum payment up to the maximum amounts allowable to help with the expenses of relocating. The amount of the lump sum payment varies by program and by the amount of wages the worker earned at the adversely affected employment.

There are time limits for filing applications for job search and relocation allowances. Only travel in the United States is authorized. Applications must be filed before the job search or relocation begins.

- **Health Insurance Tax Credit**

The worker and qualified family members may be eligible for a tax credit for health coverage expenses. Specific eligibility criteria must be met for the worker to qualify for this benefit.

NOTE: Other training opportunities and re-employment services offered throughout the Workforce Investment Act may be available to workers who do not qualify for TAA. Go to labor.idaho.gov and choose Education & Training from the menu.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for TAA, a group of three workers, their authorized representative, One-Stop operators or partners, or the Idaho Department of Labor, may file a TAA petition. The petition must be filed simultaneously with the Idaho Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). Petitions are available at any Idaho Department of Labor office.

Before certifying petitions, the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance at the U.S. Department of Labor must determine if increased imports contributed to a company's decreased sales and production. It must decide if a significant number of workers have been laid off or if there is a strong indication that layoffs will occur. Approved certifications carry an impact date and generally are valid for two years from the date issued. If certified as eligible, affected workers may apply for TAA. If not certified as eligible, affected petitioners may appeal that determination.

IF PETITION IS DENIED

Petitioners are notified in writing if their petition for TAA was denied. Those determinations, which must also be published in the Federal Register, must be appealed in writing through the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

OLDER WORKER ALTERNATIVE

Workers over age 50 who were employed by a company that is eligible for coverage under the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance program may choose to receive services under this program rather than the regular TAA program. A Department of Labor representative can determine if your former employer was certified for this program and if you are eligible for the ATAA benefits.

For more information, please contact your local Idaho Department of Labor office or contact Idaho Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Division
317 W. Main St. Boise, ID 83735
Phone (208) 332-3577, Fax (208) 334-6400
Or go online to labor.idaho.gov and select Trade Act Assistance from the Job Seekers menu item.

6/08 (5/03)

Costs associated with this publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor, which is funded in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for TTY Idaho Relay Service.